

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO AMCONSUL DURBAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9615

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SF, ZA

SUBJ: CHIEF BUTHELEZI'S VISIT TO ZAMBIA

REF: DURBAN 426

1. CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR OF KWAZULU, ARRIVED LUSAKA DECEMBER 9 FROM NAIROBI AND DEPARTED DECEMBER 12 FOR DAR. DURING HECTIC VISIT COINCIDING WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW ZAMBIAN CABINET BUTHELEZI GIVEN NEAR RED CARPET TREATMENT INCLUDING TWO HOUR SESSION AT STATE HOUSE WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND MEMBERS UNIP CENTRAL COMMITTEE, FORMAL STATE HOUSE DINNER, PRIVATE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER MAINZA CHONA, AND LARGE LUNCHEON WITH EX-FOREIGN MINISTER AND FORMER FORT HARE SCHOOLMATE ELIJAH MUDENDA.

2. DURING VISIT BUTHELEZI SPOKE IN USUAL FRANK FASHION. NOTING DESIRE OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA AT DEC 10 PRESS CONFERENCE, BUTHELEZI STATED, "WE, WHO ARE LEADING
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THE BLACK PEOPLE WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA, ALSO DESIRE A CHANGE.
BUT THE METHODS WE EMPLOY AND THOSE USED BY THE LIBERATION

MOVEMENTS ARE DIFFERENT BECAUSE WE OPERATE FROM ENTIRELY DIFFERENT STRATEGIC POINTS." RULING OUT ARMED STRUGGLE AS A SOLUTION, HE ASKED, "WHERE IS A UNITED AFRICAN ARMED FORCE TO FIGHT SOUTH AFRICA?" PRIOR TO STATE HOUSE SESSION DEC 11 BUTHELEZI PRAISED PRESIDENT KAUNDA FOR SACRIFICING ZAMBIA ECONOMICALLY TO IDENTIFY ZAMBIA WITH SUFFERING OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS.

3. DURING HIS STAY BUTHELEZI MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. BUTHELEZI CONTINUED TALKS WITH OLIVER TAMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA, BEGUN IN NAIRBI OVER THE WEEKEND. LUNCHEON GIVEN BY MUDENDA ENABLED BUTHELEZI RENEW CONTACTS WITH MANY SOUTH AFRICANS RESIDENT HERE.

4. AT STATE HOUSE DINNER DECEMBER 11 PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD BUTHELEZI THAT ZAMBIA ADMIRER HIM AS IT WAS NOT EASY TO SOW SEEDS OF LOVE WHEN OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN POWER, SOWED SEEDS OF HATRED. KAUNDA ADDED ZAMBIA DID NOT DESPISE KWAZULU AND OTHER HOMELAND PEOPLES FOR ACCEPTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HOMELANDS BECAUSE "WE KNOW THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE". BUTHELEZI TOLD EMBOFF FOLLOWING DAY THAT HE HAD FOUND KAUNDA TO BE COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDING OF HIS POINT OF VIEW. HE WAS EXTEREMLY PLEASED AT WAY HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GRZ OFFICIALS HAD GONE. ACCORDING WIRE SERVICE REPORT, UPON ARRIVAL DAR DEC 12 BUTHELEZI SAID HE HAD FOUND IN ZAMBIA "A COMPREHENSION WHICH AMAZED ME" OF COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEMS HE FACED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

5. LOCAL PRESS REACTION TO BUTHELEZI VISIT WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE. ON DAY OF BUTHELEZI'S ARRIVAL SUNDAY TIMES IN COMMENT ON CHIEF'S OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE AS MEANS OF CHANGE SAID IT REFUSED TO BELIEVE BUTHELEZI WAS "EXPRESSING A VIEW THAT IS COMMONLY HELD BY MOST AFRICANS IN SOUTH AFRICA." HOWEVER, EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY MAIL DEC 12 WARMLY COMMENDED BUTHELEZI FOR HIS OPPOSITION TO WHITE OPPRESSION IN SOUTH AFRICA. EDITORIAL SAID "EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE DISAGREED WITH HIM CANNOT ACCUSE HIM OF BEING EITHER A COWARD OR WHITE MAN'S LACKEY" AND ADDED THAT IN A COUNTRY SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA "THOSE WHO HAVE HAD THE COURAGE LIKE BUTHELEZI TO TELL THE DEVIL THAT HE IS A DEVIL HAVE TO BE
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RESPECTED FOR THEIR COURAGE." BOTH PAPERS GAVE GOOD COVERAGE TO VISIT WITH TIMES RUNNING LARGE PHOTO BUTHELEZI AND KAUNDA CENTER FRONT-PAGE DEC 12. CHIEF ALSO HAD 10-MINUTE INTERVIEW ON EVENING TV TALK SHOW.

6. COMMENT. AFTER INITIAL GRZ RETICENCE AT EXTENDING INVITATION TO BUTHELEZI (LUSAKA 2178), CHIEF RECEIVED HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT WHICH HE NO DOUBT HAD HOPED FOR BUT PERHPAS DID NOT EXPECT. HE ATTENDED HUGE DEC 10 PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH KAUNDA ANNOUNCED HIS NEW CABINET. ALSO TAKING PART IN STATE HOUSE TALKS DEC 11

WERE PRIME MINISTER MAINZA CHONA AND THREE MEMBERS UNIP
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ELIJAH MUDENDA, WESLEY NYIRENDA, AND HUMPHREY
MULEMBA. BUTHELEZI'S ESCORTS DURING VISIT WERE MUDENDA AND ACTING
PERMSEC FOREIGN AFFAIRS BASIL MONZE. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE
BUTHELEZI TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS DELIGHTED WITH HIS RECEPTION
HERE AND REGRETTEED HE COULD NOT STAY FOR OPENING OF PARLIAMENT
DEC 13. EVERY INDICATION IS THAT BUTHELEZI'S FIRST VISIT TO
ZAMBIA WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE'S
FRANK FERRARI, WHO ACCOMPANIED BUTHELEZI TO LUSAKA, TOLD EMBOFF
HE FELT AAI'S STOCK HAD GONE UP IN ZAMBIA AS A RESULT OF ITS
ARRANGING BUTHELEZI'S VISIT.
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